

REMARKS

The Office Action dated May 11, 2010 has been reviewed carefully and the application has been amended in a sincere effort to place it in condition for allowance. All objections and rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 2, 4, 21 – 24, 28 – 30 and 48 and new Claim 49 – 51 are pending in the case. The remaining claims, i.e., 1, 3, 5 – 20, 25 – 27, 31 – 47 have been cancelled herein, or cancelled previously, without prejudice to further reinstatement in a divisional or a continuation application. New Claims 49 – 51 were added herein to better claim the invention.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 2, 4, 21 – 24, and 28 – 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicant has amended the claims to address the Examiner's rejections. It is respectfully submitted that the claims now comply with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 21 – 24 and 28 – 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 on the grounds that the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. As suggested by the Examiner, each of Claims 21 – 24 and 28 – 30 have been amended herein to refer to “non-transitory” computer readable medium or computer readable memory. It is believed that these amendments overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 2, 4, 21 – 24 and 28 – 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Published Patent Application US 2005/0197892 to Bilibin et al. (“Bilibin”).

Applicant is seeking solutions for circumstances in which an intended recipient is to receive packages from several companies, he or she must contact the respective senders to obtain various identifiers, and then contract each delivery company to obtain the relevant delivery information. The recipient must then keep track of the various package identifiers, the dates which the companies are delivering the respective packages, and so forth. Specification, Page 2, lines 4 – 11. Similarly, the sender must go through similar steps to trace the packages he or she has sent. Applicant’s invention solves this problem by providing a personal tracking and tracing system that allows the user to track and trace packages without having to contact the sender, intended recipient, and /or the delivery company or postal service. Further the system may link other information to the mail piece delivery status, such as purchase or payment history, related credit card debit or credit information or confirmation of a completed transaction. Specification, Page 3, lines 27 to Page 4, line 2.

Briefly, Applicant’s claimed solution links information about mail pieces to a user identifier, such that the user can, through his or her personal web page, personally track and trace mail pieces directed to or sent by the user. The system may also link other information to the user identifier, such as, for example, information associated with one or more postal transaction sessions. The user can then start, continue and end a given

transaction at any time by communicating with the system through his or her personal web page from virtually any personal computer. The user can also access this information at a postal station, or other delivery company terminal or kiosk.
(Specification, Page 14, lines 3 – 10).

Furthermore, the Applicant's invention also has functionality regarding ordered items. More specifically, the graphic user interface of the present invention can include a table which sets forth a complete record of a transaction from start to finish, including the dates of delivery of an ordered article to the user, and the date of return delivery of the article to the company, if any, as well as the dates of debiting and/or crediting of the transaction to his or her credit card.

Still further, the system also provides transaction information regarding paying monthly bills or other banking transactions. For example, a bill that may be received from a utility company may be paid by the user, and through the system of the present invention, the user can maintain an up-to-date billing and payment history for the utility company service. This feature can be used with all of a user's monthly bills or banking transactions and the like.

In contrast, Bilibin allows a user to perform various functions regarding shipment of items from an origin postal code and to a destination postal code. In one embodiment, Bilibin is focused on the concept of an e-commerce auction wherein a user is a Seller/Shipper, who is in a transactional relationship with a Buyer. For example, a graphic representation of an exemplary embodiment is illustrated in Fig. 10B. The Bilibin reference states: "With the Seller's Carrier/Service Preferences Screen 49, the System requests 159 the User to identify the Carriers and the Services of each Carrier that

the User is willing to allow Buyer/Bidder to choose for shipping the item(s) to be shipped.” Bilibin Page 9, Paragraph [0164]. Thus, the user can choose the Carrier based upon such aspects as pricing or convenience.

Additionally, the Bilibin system in another embodiment notifies the user of a pending shipment to the user which may contain various details about the package being shipped. Thus, the Bilibin teaching relates to a single transaction of one or more items that are shipped by a Seller to a Buyer, whether that transaction occurs in an e-auction setting or in a more traditional setting of notification to a sender of shipment and/or expected delivery date. As noted, it appears that Bilibin teaches single transactions to be handled one at a time.

In contrast, Applicant’s invention is a comprehensive system for simplifying and organizing numerous tasks that a user may perform online. Typically, the user would do so using by navigating to separate relevant websites. For example, Applicant’s invention provides, as part of the comprehensive system, information regarding shipment of outgoing mail pieces and receipt of incoming mail pieces, including delivery status information about the mail piece, address and delivery particulars, a digital copy of the mail piece, a summary of the mail piece, and an excerpt from the mail piece. All of this is displayed on the user’s web page, as claimed. Additionally, using Applicant’s claimed system, the user has the capability of paying bills online (such as the user’s utility bills) on the user’s web page as provided by the present invention. Additionally, the user can track and trace incoming ordered items. And further, the user can receive notification that his/her credit card or debit card has been charged for the payment for the ordered items. This information can be summarized in a table that is displayed in a graphic user

interface on the user's web page.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that due to the absence from Bilibin of a number of key features of Applicant's invention including the features of the wide range of functionality that the claimed system provides for the user as the user's web page, then the Bilibin reference alone does not disclose, teach or render obvious Applicant's claimed invention.

With respect to the Guidice reference, the Examiner notes that Guidice is only used to show the linking of information between user identifiers and item status information, not the retrieving of information from multiple sources. The Examiner cites Col. 6, line 45 in this regard, which states: "In step 500, the customer accesses a shipment tracking web page via the network. Upon entry of unique user name and password, the server determines, in step 510, whether the customer has submitted any orders within a predetermined amount of time..." (Col. 6, lines 45 – 47). The Guidice reference goes on to state that: "In this manner, the customer is able to track the progress of recent orders regardless of the carrier by which they are being shipped and without the need to navigate off of supplier's web site." (Col. 6, lines 64 – 67).

As noted by the Examiner, Guidice is being cited for linking information between and user identifier and order item status, *without navigating from a supplier's web site*. In other words, Guidice requires that a user navigate to the supplier's website. Guidice alone does not teach Applicant's comprehensive system because Guidance teaches tracking the progress of an ordered item via the seller/supplier's web site, irrespective of the Carrier that was used by the supplier for the shipment. Thus, the user must determine tracking numbers and other identifying information, such as user name and password and

such and must then go to each supplier's individual website for information about a shipment. Guidice does not disclose, teach or suggest a *user's* web page through which the user can comprehensively track packages, pay bills, monitor credit card usage as to ordered items or bills, and the like.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Guidice alone does not disclose, teach or suggest Applicant's invention.

Turning to the Kanevsky reference, Kanevsky describes a communication system that transmits and receives combinations of paper mail and electronic mail. In one embodiment, a user of the system is permitted to send paper mail to the post office. The post office scans the paper mail and forwards the scanned information data either to the addressee via the Internet or to the addressee's local post office. (Abstract) Thus, the Kanevsky user can decide how they would like to receive paper mail.

Applicant's claimed system is in contrast to Kanevsky, because Kanevsky specifies that a sender or recipient can indicate a preferred format in which to send or receive a particular letter. To do so, uses accesses the post office via the Internet to advise the relevant post office of such preferences. Thereafter, the post office will scan and email a copy, or send a hard copy of the item.

Again, this has nothing to do with Applicant's comprehensive system in which tasks that the user would normally perform at different websites online are accessible on a single web page to which the user has access. Kanevsky is devoid of the concept of a whole body of information, such as a complete record of a transaction from start to finish, including the date of shipment of an ordered article, the date of delivery of an ordered article to the user, and the return delivery of the article to the company, if any,

the dates of the debiting or crediting of payment for the ordered article with the user's credit or debit card and providing transaction information from billing companies that bill the user regularly for supplying goods or services, and supplying the user with a confirmation of receipt of a payment by the billing company, as is claimed in amended independent Claim 2, and the other independent claims.

Thus, Kanevsky alone does not disclose, teach or suggest Applicant's claimed invention.

The combination of Bilibin, Guidice and Kenevsky still does not give rise to Applicant's claimed invention because Bilibin teaches a single transaction of one or more items that are shipped by a Seller to a Buyer, whether that transaction occurs in an e-auction setting or in a more traditional setting of notification to a sender of shipment and/or expected delivery date. Guidice is only used to show the linking of information between user identifiers and item status information, not the retrieving of information from multiple sources. However, adding the linking of Guidice to Bilibin still does not give rise to Applicant's system, which provides an availability of many of a user's online tasks and services in a single web site. Also, the breadth of the services that are available in Applicant's web site are not contemplated by either reference.

Adding Kanevsky to the combination, as indicated by the Examiner, to state that there is a digital shadow, still does not give rise to the invention because the ability to decide whether to send a scanned copy does not add a feature to the combination that renders Applicant's claimed invention obvious.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the cited references taken alone or in combination do not render Applicant's claimed invention obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103,

and thus the claims are patentable over the cited references.

REMARKS

All of the claims have been amended herein either directly or through dependency. Support for New Claim 49 can be found in the Specification at Page 14, lines 18 – 20. Support for New Claim 50 can be found in the Specification at Page 15, lines 9 – 12. Support for New Claim 51 can be found in the Specification at Fig. 3 and discussion thereof. It is respectfully submitted that the above new claims (which depend from amended independent claims) are patentable based upon the amendments and arguments set forth herein.

All independent claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

All dependent claims are dependent from independent claims which are believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, all dependent claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Please charge any additional fee occasioned by this paper to our Deposit Account No. 03-1237.

Respectfully submitted,

/Rita M. Rooney/
Rita M. Rooney
Reg. No. 30,585
CESARI AND MCKENNA, LLP
88 BLACK FALCON AVENUE
BOSTON, MA 02210
Telephone: (617) 951-2500
Facsimile: (617) 951-3927